

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process of solvent extraction of copper which treats an aqueous chloride solution containing copper and ~~one or more iron as a concomitant elements~~ element to separate/recover copper, comprising:

the first step for selective extraction of copper from the aqueous chloride solution by mixing the solution with an extractant of organic solvent composed of tributyl phosphate ~~as the major component~~ at 40 % by volume or more after adjusting the solution at an oxidation-reduction potential of 0 to 350 mV (based on an Ag/AgCl electrode), and

the second step for stripping of copper by mixing the extractant in which copper is stripped with an aqueous solution containing copper at 70 g/L or less and chlorine ion at 50 to 350 g/L.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous chloride solution for the first step is kept at an oxidation-reduction potential of 250 to 300 mV (based on an Ag/AgCl electrode).

Claim 3 (Cancelled):

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the extractant for the first step contains tributyl phosphate at 80 to 90 % by volume.

Claim 5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the stripping is carried out at 20 to 90 °C in the second step.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous chloride solution contains iron and silver as the concomitant elements ~~are iron~~ and/or silver.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the aqueous chloride solution contains iron and silver as the concomitant elements ~~are iron~~ and/or silver.

Claim 9 (Cancelled):

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 4, wherein the aqueous chloride solution contains iron and silver as the concomitant elements ~~are iron~~ and/or silver.

Claim 11 (Cancelled):

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process ~~solvent extraction of copper~~ according to Claim 6, wherein the aqueous chloride solution contains iron and silver as the concomitant elements ~~are iron~~ and/or silver.